

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/676,365

Examiner

Neveen Abel-Jalil

Applicant(s)

BLINN ET AL.

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/23/06 (& Approved Terminal Disclaimer 8/23/06).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-12, & 25-31.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

JEFFREY GAFFIN Neveen Abel-Jalil  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

### **DETAILED ACTION**

#### **Remarks**

1. The Amendment filed on August-23-2006 has been received and entered. Claims 1-5, 13-24, and 32-49 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 6-12, and 25-31, are now pending.

#### ***Terminal Disclaimer***

2. The terminal disclaimer filed on 8/23/2006 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of 10/960,741 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jerome G. Shaefer on September 6, 2006 (Attorney of Record).

#### **Amendments to the Claims:**

4. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

5. The application has been amended as follows:

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

- (a) hosting, on a server, a database of specification data of products of a plurality of different manufacturers, the product specification data in the database being arranged in a predefined product class;
- (b) defining, for each product class, a schema for the entry of specification data of products in the product class;
- (c) providing an interface comprising a tool, used by each product manufacturer, to add new product specification data into the database and to modify existing product specification data in the database, the interface tool requiring each manufacturer to use a same schema when entering and modifying product specification data in a particular product class, the interface further comprising an access control component which restricts any individual product manufacturer to view and edit only the product specification data corresponding to that individual product manufacturer; and
- (d) in exchange for remuneration from a given manufacturer, providing that manufacturer with query access to the given manufacturer's respective product specification data in the database to obtain the respective product specification data to use in combination with a web authoring tool and charging each manufacturer desiring to have access to the database a fee for such access.

7. (Original) The method recited in claim 6, wherein the fee is in the form of a monetary payment.

8. (Original) The method recited in claim 7, wherein the fee comprises a one-time fee.

9. (Original) The method recited in claim 7, wherein the fee comprises a periodically recurring fee.

10. (Original) The method recited in claim 7, wherein the fee is based on usage of the database by the manufacturers.

11. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 10, wherein the fee for a the given manufacturer is based on the volume of product information stored in the database by that manufacturer.

12. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 10, wherein the fee for a the given manufacturer is based on the number of times that the manufacturer accesses the database to retrieve product specification data.

13-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A computer system ~~used by~~ implemented by an application service provider (ASP), the system having product specification data of a plurality of manufacturers, comprising;

a database of specifications of products of the plurality of different manufacturers, the product specifications in the database being arranged in predefined product classes, and

an interface comprising a tool, used by each product manufacturer, providing entry of specifications of products in a given product class, there being defined, for each product class, a schema providing specifications of products in that product class, the interface tool requiring each manufacturer to use the defined schema for a given product class when entering product specification data for products in that class, the interface further comprising an access control component which permits a manufacturer to view and edit only the product specification data corresponding to the accessing manufacturer;

the interface further permitting each manufacturer that provides remuneration to the (ASP) to access ~~its~~ the manufacturer's respective product specification data in the database to use in combination with a web authoring tool and wherein the remuneration required to access the database comprises a fee paid by each manufacturer.

26. (Original) The system recited in claim 25, wherein the fee comprises a monetary payment.

27. (Original) The system recited in claim 25, wherein the fee comprises a one-time fee.

28. (Original) The system recited in claim 25, wherein the fee comprises a periodically recurring fee.

29. (Currently Amended) The system recited in claim 25, wherein the fee is based on usage of the database by a the manufacturer.

30. (Original) The system recited in claim 29, wherein the fee for a given manufacturer is based on the volume of product information stored in the database by the manufacturer.

31. (Original) The system recited in claim 29, wherein the fee for a given manufacturer is based on a number of times that the manufacturer accesses the database to retrieve product specification data.

32-49. (Cancelled)

*Allowance*

6. Claims 6-12, and 25-31 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 571-272-4074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 09/676,365

Page 7

Art Unit: 2165

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Neveen Abel-Jalil  
September 6, 2006